

We're moving to Thursdays on Feb. 7

Starting Feb. 7, the Fort Erie Times will move from Saturdays to Thursdays. It will include all your favourite shopping inserts and up to date local news. Readers will still be able to enjoy our online coverage around the clock. You can also follow us on Twitter and Facebook. The Fort Erie Shopping Times will move from Wednesdays to Saturdays.

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MIKE DIBATTISTA QMI Agency Niagara

Mayor Doug Martin, along with Fort Erie Economic Development and Tourism Corporation general manager Jim Thibert and chamber of commerce president Dean Demizio, addressed the state of the town to about 120 people from the local business community on Wednesday.

Martin says council has 'no direction'

Kris Dubé
Editor

As heavy rain poured down in Fort Erie on Wednesday morning, mayor Doug Martin and

Jim Thibert addressed the state of the local economic climate and said the clouds will break if everyone works together.

The closure of the slots, the uncertain future of the

Fort Erie Racetrack, a handful of companies going under... It's been tough lately in the small town with a population of 30,000.

But it's time for everyone

to dust themselves off and get back up again.

At a function hosted by the Greater Fort Erie Chamber of Commerce at Bridgewater Country Club, Martin began his speech

with references to the way his council has conducted business since early 2011.

See Page 2

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'If we're not pulling together the same way, we're just going in circles'

From Page 1

He said differing views on issues between members of council has inhibited the local government's progress.

"If we're not pulling together the same way, we're just going in circles," said Martin in front of about 120 people from the business community.

"It's very sad, we have no direction on council at this time," he added.

Martin said when the current roster on council was put into place he looked forward to getting down to business and moving the Town forward with almost new team but says a lot of the progress he anticipated has been stalled for a number of reasons, such as the Bay Beach condo project being deliberated and re-opened with lawsuits, following approval from the last council.

"It's time for us to get our act together and turn things around," said Martin.

Since the council of today

took over, Martin said a handful of important staffers at Town Hall have come and gone.

"Some by their own decision, others not by their own decision," said Martin.

In March 2011, Rino Mostacci, left his post as director of council and development services to take a position in Markham.

A few months later, the Town's chief administrative officer Henry Schlanghe also departed from Fort Erie to take a job in the Ottawa area. In 2012, the Town's solicitor Heather Salter was terminated by council after a series of closed session meetings.

Since Schlanghe left for the next step in his career, Ron Tripp moved from director of infrastructure services to the municipal chief administrative officer and has been in that position for a year-and-a-half.

During that time, council has made attempts to fill the top spot at Town Hall through a third-party hiring firm and still to this date, the right candidate has not been found. Martin has criticized



Mayor Doug Martin speaking to about 120 people at the Greater Fort Erie Chamber of Commerce's State of Fort Erie Breakfast on Wednesday.

members of council in the past, for overlooking Tripp as the right person for the job.

"I think he should be given the job on a permanent basis," said Martin.

Moving away from his thoughts on his council, Martin said one of the biggest struggles Fort Erie has been coping with provincially significant wetland legislation, which has caused

severe limitations and obstacles for the Town while attempting to expand its urban boundary and open up industrial lands.

"We're working diligently to try and rectify that," said Martin.

Since Ontario was given its new premier last week-end, Martin expects Kathleen Wynne will be a benefit to his town since she was the former Minister of Transportation and Minister

of Municipal Affairs. A provincial election is inevitable but for the time being, Martin hopes she will listen.

"She understands the plight of Fort Erie," he said.

Martin then went back to council, saying that a strategic plan has been put in place to fuel employment and growth with an order for to show results, the Fort Erie Economic Development and Tourism Corporation (EDTC) and its capability needs to be embraced with positivity.

"It's impossible for us to succeed without the full support of this council," said Martin.

On Monday, council voted against replenishing the EDTC's depleted reserve fund and Martin raised his concern about the decision at the breakfast on Wednesday. He also pointed out that one of council's representatives on the EDTC board, Ward 4 Coun. John Hill, was part of the prevailing view to turn down the request.

"These are the dollars we use to help businesses in Fort Erie during times of trouble," said Martin.

He feels council needs to show support for the EDTC through its actions.

"It can't just be lip service."

Martin encourages the local business community to get more involved and play closer attention to political issues in the community and to tell members of council how they feel about some of the decisions made.

"We need you to be vocal,

we need your input. Democracy is not a spectator sport," said Martin.

Taking the podium after Martin was Thibert. He summarized his budget presentation from Jan. 15, also pointing out challenges that stem from wetland legislation and the value of the Canadian dollar compared to a decade ago, that has caused less Americans to make day trips to Ontario.

Thibert pointed out that 64 per cent of the local economy is based on U.S. investment through branch plants, tourism, exporting retail and other areas.

Those 3,362 jobs in Greater Fort Erie based on business that is in some way related to the U.S.

The local recent boom to the local economy was Vertis. Thibert said the loss of the Stevensville being shut down by a U.S. company that acquired its operations and closed the local plant.

Thibert said the unfortunate turn of events has nothing to do with the quality of product, staff or way the plant conducted its business. It's the global market that has played the largest impact in the closure.

"This plant was profitable and is capable of competing," he said.

Thibert was criticized by some members of council last week for saying that there are companies in Greater Fort Erie who are able to hire and that the jobs he was referring to are not available for people who are illiterate and uneducated.

He said according to statistics, Niagara has the second highest rate of illiteracy in the country.

"Those are the facts. What we do is just bring this to your attention."

Thibert and Martin also stressed the importance of the Canadian Motor Speedway as being a project that could revitalize the local economy when it is built.

In his closing remarks, he said that because of the provincial government will continue to address some of the problems the town is faced with and that every time a trip has been made to Queen's Park, a solution is always presented by local officials.

"We never beg,"

FEBRUARY EVENTS

Family Storytime

Thursday afternoons at 4 pm, Centennial, Free. Bring the family and join us while we share great stories.

Tax Q & A

Tuesday, February 5, 2 pm, Centennial, Free. Open House, 6:30 pm. Oryx Ridge, Free. Come in to compare with 30 years' experience to decide whether you can use your taxes or can use the CPTP. Sample questions asked with a stated heading to tax@psewebinc.com, then attend the session to get your answers.

Bryan Prince

Wednesday, February 6, 1 pm, Centennial, \$2. Prince is a descendant of slaves who came to Canada before the U. S. Civil War. He has a profound interest in the history of slavery and the Underground Railroad. Prince is an author of several works, and he and his wife Sharon have lectured extensively across the country. Books will be available for sale and signing. This event is sponsored in part by the Writers' Union.

Don't Fear Defibrillators

Wednesday, February 13, 7 pm, Crystal Ridge, Free. Learn about defibrillators, the difference they can make and how to use one from the experts. Heart Niagara, during an informational session. Please call 905-871-2546, ext. 3005 if you are interested in attending.

Altered Books

Friday, February 15, 2 pm, Centennial, \$2. Altered Books is a session of cutting, tearing, drawing, folding (and then changing a book from its original form) to create new, unique, and often humorous creativity. Limited books for ages 6 and up. Please pre-register with a \$2 fee.

leap FORT ERIE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Family Day

Monday, February 18. All branches of the Fort Erie Public Library will be closed for Family Day. The website is always open at www.fepd.ca.

Horton's Hundred Years

Wednesday, February 27, 2 pm, Centennial, Free. Horton Steel was a major presence in the Town of Fort Erie for nearly 100 years, and there is a growing movement to recognize that history. Join Emily Seebach, Charles McMahon and Scott Wright in the hour, and then to remember about the history of Horton Steel, the present program of the library and the Bertha Historical Society is open to the public.

Argo

Thursday, February 21, 6:30 pm, Centennial, \$2. Argo is one of the nominees for the Academy Award for Best Picture this year, and the winner of the Golden Globes for Best Director and Best Picture. This exciting dramatization of the 1980 CIA-Canadian secret operation to rescue six fugitive American diplomatic personnel from Iran has received mixed reviews. Many Canadian critics are unhappy about the portrayal of the Canadian diplomats. Decide for yourself on our 30th Sunday Film.

Rise of the Guardians

Saturday, February 23, 2 pm, Centennial, \$2. Rise of the Guardians is an animated family adventure featuring the voices talents of Chris Pine, Isla Fisher, Alec Baldwin and Hugh Jackman.

Multicultural Celebration

Wednesday, February 27, 1 pm, Centennial, Free. Fort Erie Multicultural Centre is a great resource for both newcomers and the community itself. Everyone can benefit when students and staff of the Multicultural Centre present an evening dedicated to sharing their culture, dress, music and stories. Open to the public, all ages.

Have you HEARD?
by Elaine Mink, M.A., B.Sc.
Registered by CASPO
Director in Audiology, Audiologists

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Council approves EDTC's 2013 budget request

Request to replenish reserve shot down by four votes

Kris Dubé
Editor

The Fort Erie Economic Development and Tourism Corporation (EDTC)'s 2013 budget grant request of \$622,027 wasn't the largest monetary item up for approval on Monday night, but it is safe to say it received the most attention from council and members of the public.

Last week, Ward 5 Coun. Don Lubberts proclaimed he would not be voting in favour of the grant request because of issues he had with the EDTC general manager Jim Thibert's presentation on Jan. 15.

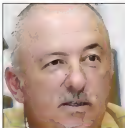
At Monday's council-in-budget committee meeting, the EDTC request was granted when it came to a decision and Lubberts, along with Ward 6 Coun. Paul Collard were the only members of council to vote against it.

The EDTC also requested \$48,361 from the municipality for reserve replenishment but it was voted down by councillors Lubberts, Collard, Steckley and Hill later in the meeting.

Lubberts opened the discussion about the EDTC request after mayor Doug Martin made a motion to address it before any other items.

"I think we all know my position," said Lubberts.

Ward 3 Coun. Bob Steckley said since this issue was made public, he has fielded several phone calls and emails from local residents about what Thibert said at his Jan. 15 presentation, but is under the impression that many



Jim Thibert

have only heard second and third-hand accounts of his comments through word of mouth or what was printed by the local media.

"I don't believe most of these people listened to the audio," said Steckley.

The Town of Fort Erie offers live audio streaming of all town hall meetings on its website.

“With all we have going on in Fort Erie and all the issues before us, I'm in favour of approving the EDTC grant.”

— Ward 3 Coun.
Bob Steckley

Steckley also said that in two weeks time, a motion will be brought forward by Coun. Paul Collard, through the EDTC board, to request Thibert's presence before

council once again to clarify his comments and perhaps deliver an apology.

"I believe the general manager will do what is asked," said Steckley.

Just as Steckley finished making that statement, Thibert was heard saying "I don't think so" from his seat in the crowded council chambers.

Steckley said there is too much at stake and the EDTC is involved in too many important projects to not allow its request.

"With all we have going on in Fort Erie and all the issues before us, I'm in favour of approving the EDTC grant," said Steckley.

Ward 2 Coun. Rick Shular has expressed his support for Thibert and the EDTC ever since this issue was put in the local political

spotlight.

"The big picture is what needs to be addressed," said Shular.

He feels council needs to improve its relationship with the EDTC and work together with a unified voice.

"This is a crucial time in this town."

Ward 1 Coun. Stephen Passero also encourages local residents to listen to Thibert's presentation on the Town's website and to also download a copy of his presentation, also available at www.forterie.on.ca.

He said he will wait until Collard's motion is brought forward in a couple weeks to comment on how Thibert delivered his presentation, but for now is only concerned with the actual budget request.

"We have too much at stake right now... let's stick to the dollars and cents of the matter," said Passero.

Mayor Doug Martin also supports Thibert and the EDTC, saying he has no issue with Thibert's description of the local economy.

"Don't shoot the messenger if you don't like the story that was told," said Martin.

The mayor said the EDTC's services are needed more than ever in Greater Fort Erie and debating the nature in which Thibert made his presentation is nowhere near as important as the many projects being proposed in the community.

"Now is not the time to be bickering over what was said and who said it," said Martin.

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Thibert says his comments were taken out of context by councillors

Kris Dubé
Editor

Jim Thibert wants to clear the air about comments he is being criticized for that he made at the Fort Erie Economic Development and Tourism Corporation's 2013 budget presentation. He's calling it a character assassination. Last week, Ward 5 Coun. Don Lubberts spoke pub-

licly about the presentation, saying he will vote against the EDTC's budget when it comes up for approval Monday at Town Hall.

The concern raised by Lubberts was his interpretation of Thibert's statements about the local workforce, where he said there are decent-paying jobs in Greater Port Erie but cannot be filled by under-educated and under-

qualified individuals.

The EDTC's general manager said his statements have been taken out of context by some members of council.

He says that for the last four years the EDTC has basically delivered the same message that he did at his recent presentation... that there are companies in the community that find difficulties in filling high-tech positions.

"These are good jobs that can be filled by local people but they need to be prepared to be trained or re-trained in order to compete for these advanced jobs," said Thibert.

"They are not available to the illiterate, the uneducated or those who are unwilling to put in a full day's work. Without the skills and re-training, they cannot meet the basic criteria," he added.

Thibert feels saying that he was describing the local workforce differently is sensationalism and for members of council to perpetuate his comments like they have in the press, is irresponsible.

"They cannot run from this responsibility and they do more harm and are good to the constituents who seek advice from them," said Thibert.

In his presentation, Thibert said there were many points where he lauded the local workforce and explained that layoffs at Pharmetics, DMI Industries and Vertis Communications had nothing to do with the quality or cost of labour in Port Erie and were simply the "collateral damage" of global corporate decisions by head offices in other countries or provinces.

"Shame on anyone who suggests otherwise and shame on councillors Lubberts, Steckley, Hill and Collard for perpetuating these statements they

should know to be untrue," said Thibert.

What the EDTC manager also finds unusual is that no member of council raised any issue with his presentation until several days later.

"They were present at the presentation and all had their concerns. In fact they issued kudos to the EDTC for the work and kudos to me and vice-president Ric Gorham and staff for the presentation."

Thibert has been the general manager of the EDTC for the last 11 years and during that time he says he has demonstrated his concern and support for the people of Port Erie wholeheartedly through working with people at the Fort Erie Racetrack, Fleet Canada, Pharmetics, Vertis and many more companies.

"To say otherwise is ignorant and untrue. To perpetuate that lie as these councillors do is shameful and just plain wrong," said Thibert.

Council endorses operating budget

Council has approved the Town of Port Erie's 2013 general levy operating budget to the tune of \$207,737.598.

After almost six hours of dialogue at Town Hall on Monday night, local politicians endorsed base budget figures and a separate compendium of additional supplementary requests from boards, committees, outside organizations and staff.

Some of the supplementary approvals included the addition of a part-time health and safety staff person, which stemmed from the operational review conducted by a third-party firm in 2011.

Other expenditures

include a \$400,000 allocation to the infrastructure reserve fund and \$30,000 to the physician recruitment and retention budget.

The Fort Erie Public Library will also receive its request of around \$1.3 million for its operations.

The budget's approval translates to a 4.12 per cent increase for municipal services, but incorporating the Region and education portion of the tax bill, a 1.12 per cent increase will be put on taxpayers.

The monthly impact to the median household, assessed at \$175,360, will be a \$2.37 increase.

This will create an average of \$28.44 for the year.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE #5

Niagara to GTA Corridor Planning and Environmental Assessment Study Phase 1

HIGHWAY EXPANSION OPTIONS

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has identified the preferred highway expansion options for the entire Niagara to GTA study area. The study area extends from Niagara Region and the U.S. border through the City of Hamilton to Halton Region.

You are invited to attend a Public Information Centre (PIC) to learn more about the highway expansion recommendations. The PICs will feature drop-in style open house sessions to allow members of the public to review display materials and provide comments on the study findings and recommendations. If you are unable to attend the PIC, the display materials will be available on the study website beginning February 12, 2013. Comments and questions may also be submitted via the study website at: www.niagara-gta.com.

The PICs will be held as follows:

Tuesday, February 12, 2013
4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Holiday Inn Burlington
Hilton Hall
3063 South Service Road, Burlington

Wednesday, February 13, 2013
4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Royal Canadian Legion
Upstairs Hall
383 Morningstar Avenue, Welland

Tuesday, February 19, 2013
4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Ancaster Fairgrounds
Marriott Hall
630 Trinity Road, RR #1, Jerseyville

THE STUDY

Phase 1 of this Planning and Environmental Assessment (EA) Study was initiated by MTO in support of the transportation objectives of the provincial *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe*. The study is being undertaken in accordance with the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act* (EA Act) and the Terms of Reference, which was approved by the Minister of the Environment in June 2006.

In March 2011, MTO released a draft Transportation Development Strategy (Strategy) that outlined several recommendations including support for enhanced transit, measures to optimize the existing transportation network, additional lanes on existing highways and a separate compendium of additional supplementary requests from boards, committees, outside organizations and staff.

COMMENTS

Comments and information regarding this study will be maintained on file for use during the project and may be included in project documentation to meet the requirements of the EA Act. Information collected will be used in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the *Access to Information Act*. With the exception of personal information (e.g., name and address), all comments will become part of the public record.

For further information, or to be added to the mailing list for this study, please visit the study website or contact:

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Consultant Project Manager
URS Canada Inc.
30 Leek Crescent, 4th Floor
Richmond Hill, ON L4N 4N4
tel: 905-882-4401
fax: 905-882-4399

If you have any accessibility requirements in order to participate in this project, please contact one of the Study Team members listed above.

Visit us online at: www.niagara-gta.com
Contact us by e-mail at: project_team@niagara-gta.com



General Vanier getting \$4.6 million

New gym, classrooms and renovated library part of the plan

Kris Dubé
Editor

Work will get underway on a renovation project at General Vanier Public School very soon.

The District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) announced on Monday at the elementary school that it will undergo a \$4.6 million reconstruction, following the DSBN's accommodation review that determined Fort Erie Elementary School and Rose Seaton Public School would close their doors after the 2013 academic year.

Students who attended either school in Fort Erie will attend Garrison Road Public School or General Vanier in September 2013.

The construction project will include a new gymnasium, a renovated library and convert the current gymnasium into three new classrooms.

The school's surrounding area will also undergo adjustments as Champlain Drive will be opened up to allow a better flow of bus traffic.

The provincial government will pay for about \$3.2 million of the renovation and the remaining \$1.4 is the DSBN's responsibility.

Niagara Falls member of provincial parliament Kim Craitor was at the school on Monday with a handful of dignitaries from the DSBN to make the announcement.

He said providing students with up-to-date resources is what the project is all about.

"That's what



KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times
Representatives from the District School Board of Niagara, MPP Kim Craitor and students at General Vanier Public School on Monday.

The kids are the ones that will benefit."

—MPP Kim Craitor

helps make students successful," said Craitor.

"The kids are the ones that will benefit," he added.

When the project is completed by September, the school

will also start to offer full-day kindergarten.

Kevin Maves, the DSBN's trustee board chair, thanked the Fort Erie community for its patience as this process unfolded.

He said the changes were met with some anguish from parents but in the end he feels the board arrived at the best solution, to address underpopulated schools in the area.

"This was done with as much thought and foresight we could possibly put into it," said Maves.

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Brick to selfishness
This is a brick to people who find an item that someone has lost and they will only return the item if they will be receiving a reward. This is nothing but selfish.

Bouquet to honest person

This is a bouquet to the person who found my hearing aid at the Fort Erie YMCA last Saturday. I never thought I would see it again and am extremely grateful. I will be more careful in the future as these are not easily replaced.

Bouquet to fortitude

This is a bouquet to members of council who have the fortitude to stand up for what they believe in and what they feel is right for the town, without being bullied by their colleagues.

Brick to personality clash
This is a gigantic brick to local politicians who are operating this town based on personal opinions of people and not what their constituents want and need. If there is a time in the last ten years when

there has been too much nonsense taking place in the local political arena... that time is right now and it's shameful. This looks and sounds ridiculous, whether you want to believe it or not.

Bouquet to Chamber of Commerce

This is a bouquet to the Greater Fort Erie Chamber of Commerce for hosting the State of Fort Erie Breakfast on Wednesday. Not only was it a great meal and social event, it delivered a message that many people need to hear. Kudos to everyone involved, including president Dean Demizio, mayor Doug Martin and EDTC general manager Jim Thibert.

Brick to not being prepared
This is a brick to everyone who did not secure their garbage and recycling bins properly on Wednesday evening, knowing that extremely high winds were on the way. On Thursday, the streets were covered in trash and it's partially your fault.

Brick to low pokes

This is a brick to people who act like there isn't a long line of people waiting behind them in line, while checking out at a store. Have

some courtesy.

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our editorial

The NHL, Bell Canada engage in mental health initiatives in February

There was a time that talking about mental health was taboo. The topic still carries around a lot of negative stigma, which is something worse than the disease itself.

Though Mental Health Month isn't until May, our seven Canadian NHL teams along with the support of the NHL are participating in Hockey Talks, which is a month-long initiative to increase dialogue and awareness about mental health and effective treatments. A game each night in those seven cities will be dedicated to Hockey Talks, where each team will lend their voice to help encourage a national conversation about mental health and wellness.

The importance of education and open dialogue on mental health is valuable. The idea of Hockey Talks is to help alleviate misconceptions and stigma that has been unfairly associated with mental illness.

Also in February, Bell will be holding Bell Let's Talk Day, Feb. 12, which will donate five cents more to mental health initiatives across Canada for every text message sent, long distance call made, tweet using #BellLetsTalk, as well as a Facebook share of their Bell Let's Talk image.

One in five Canadians will experience a mental health problem or illness in their lifetime; it indirectly affects all Canadians at some point through a family member, friend or colleague. One of the biggest barriers to mental health is the stigma or discrimination attached to mental illness, not only to diagnose and receive treatment, but also acceptance in the community. About 70 per cent of mental health problems and illnesses have their onset during childhood or adolescence. Identifying the signs early and getting connected to tools and support is the most important way to prevent problems from becoming worse.

In the Niagara Region, you can reach a distress centre by calling the distress line at 905-688-3711, or by visiting distresscentre.niagara.com.

For mental health services in Ontario, call 1-866-531-2600. For help with drugs and alcohol, the helpline is 1-800-565-8603.

Taking the first step to get help is always the hardest. Mental health issues are treatable once diagnosed and addressed. Never give up hope!

-Melissa Mangelsen



Do You Remember?

The response to last week's photo was the best we have ever received. Not only did we learn all the names of the people in the photo, we also heard about what many of those boys (now men) are doing presently. This all adds to the history of the community. We love that our Do You Remember feature is a catalyst for reconnecting people who may have lost touch or moved far away. Thank you for including the Museum in your conversations.

On a sad note, the family of Roger Hill were marking the fifth anniversary of his death when last week's photo appeared in the paper. Although it was a bittersweet reminder, they shared with us, "that it couldn't have come at a better time for our family."

For all their help, our thanks to Krista Boles (Roger's niece); Bob Brown (a 1961 Fess alumna); Lorrie Johns (who identified her husband Scott); Mark Kennedy; Werner Mueller and mother and son, Jean and Jim Clements.

This was the Fort Erie Secondary Senior Falcons basketball team. In the back row, from left: Scott Johns, Roger Hill, Frank Iannello, Steve Casey, Werner Mueller

and coach Bob Eaton. Front row, from left: Chris O'Connor, Herb McGirr, Rob Mueller and Jim Clements. We even learned the name of the absent team member - Danny Weiss.

The Falcons won the Most Sportsmanlike Team Trophy during this 1961 Welland Tribune Basketball Tournament.

This week's photo also shows a group of trophy winners. If you know any of these children, where the photo was taken or where it appeared in the paper, please call the Museum at 894-5322 or send an e-mail to museum@forterie.on.ca.

'State of Fort Erie' event should be a real eye-opener



Kris Dube
Editor of Fort Erie Times

almost three hours, it was one of the most important and eye-opening events we've had here in a long time.

What caught my attention the most is the response given to mayor Doug Martin and Fort Erie Economic Development and Tourism general manager Jim Thibert from the crowd of those in attendance.

That response involved nothing but applause and a genuine appreciation of

what they do.

Both Martin and Thibert, like anyone else who is considered a public figure, will always have their critics.

But the crowd on Wednesday consisted mostly of people from the local business community and the impression I was given is that they both have a lot of fans, despite some of the recent controversy in the past two weeks.

Without repeating what I wrote in my column last

week, I want to touch on the style Jim Thibert uses when speaking publicly.

He knows how to keep the audience engaged.

Whether it's solid factual information or a few harmless jokes, he knows how to keep people paying attention.

He could stand at the front of the room and provide a number of figures, without any colour in his presentation, but in my opinion that would be less

effective than the way he conducts himself.

Nothing inappropriate was said at the breakfast but there was an element of humour in his speech.

There is absolutely nothing wrong with that and how both Thibert and Martin's speeches were received is evidence that they should keep doing what they have been doing.

Over 100 people who are involved in local business attended and from what I

could tell, the support is there and there are no issues with some of the things Thibert has been criticized for recently.

I'm going out on a limb here but I think it is safe to say that the percentage of people in this community who think Thibert should be ousted is minimal, to say the least.

Even though Wednesday's State of Fort Erie breakfast only involved local officials standing at a podium for

opinion page

At least Thibert is 'trying to make a difference,' says reader

Dear Editor,

We the people of Fort Erie are disappointed in the entire town council.

When they, the council members, applied for the jobs that they were assigned to by us, the corporate shareholders and taxpayers, we expected them to put aside their attitudes and remember that they are working for the betterment of the entire town and not themselves. Currently none are re-electable, none have raised themselves to the level

required to be hired by myself and most others. In the real world they would have been on the street looking in at their replacement doing the job.

Some appear to be against keeping the old jobs and businesses and making it impossible for new jobs and businesses to enter the area.

They hire outside consultants to oversee the hiring of personal as well as suggest things that can be done. What do we hear? I don't like that report so let's spend more of the taxpayers money on another

report.'

Now we have another report presented to them and one does not like the tone of the report and the method it was presented to them. Well they have not listened to the last two years worth of reports which was delivered in nice PC flowery language at great expense to the town and its shareholders (taxpayers).

So tough. Mr. Thibert told it like it is and having to deliver the message to the kids in the halls in this manner may get through. Unfortunately, it appears

that it has not again!

I support Mr Thibert in his attention to detail and how he does his job, at least he is trying to make a difference. My attitude has always been the customer gets what they paid for, whether right or wrong. I will suggest changes etc to make it better, but in the end they will get the best I can give them.

Anybody who has dealt with me will know where I am coming from.

Pierre D'Entremont
Fort Erie

Council living in a fantasy world

Dear Editor,

I read that our taxes will increase by 4.1 per cent. I suppose that rather doing any work to cut down on expenses to make up for the taxes that were at one time paid by all the businesses closing up and leaving town, it is the easiest way to fill the city coffers at our expense

Not only do we have a council that appears to be in shambles, but they have lost touch with reality. We have so many people leaving town because it is getting to the point where we hardly afford to live here. Our town council compounds the situation by simply passing on their short comings to the tax payers of Fort Erie.

Wake up people and let them know we are not happy with the way you are being represented, and perhaps they will realize that this is just putting a further burden on the people who live here.

Perhaps our council needs to look at all the homes that are for sale in Fort Erie, which is a whole lot of people wanting to get out of Fort Erie and move somewhere they can afford to live.

I don't know but I really think I may be one of the people that sells my house for next to nothing just to get away from the fantasy world our council seems to live in.

Jack Babcock
Fort Erie

Councillors reassure their support for speedway project

The following is an open letter from Councillors Bob Steckley, John Hill, Don Lubberts and Paul Collard to Canadian Motor Speedway officials

As members of Council, we were very pleased that the original appeal to the

OMB was decided in favour of the Canadian Motor Speedway and the Town of Fort Erie. Additionally, we are confident that the current appeal of that decision will be dismissed, giving the green light for you to proceed with this important project for Fort Erie.

We have unanimously supported the CMS at every vote that has come before us, with the vast majority of the residents of Fort Erie expressing their support for the speedway. We have also spoken very positively about your project publicly on many occasions.

The CMS is a major opportunity that will benefit both Fort Erie, and the Niagara Region, and we look forward to seeing this significant project come to fruition.

Recently, there has been considerable press sur-

rounding comments made by the General Manager of the Fort Erie EDTC during a budget presentation to Council. We want to assure you that this distorted press here is not a reflection of our commitment to the CMS.

As a result, we feel it is

important to take this opportunity to once again confirm our unwavering support for your project. We invite you to contact us at any time should you feel the need for our assistance with moving this important economic initiative forward is required.

Fort Erie needs some positive results

Dear Editor,

I am writing in regards to the performance put out at Fort Erie council by Jim Thibert, the head of the Economic Development and Tourism Corporation. His show consisted of his typical foul mouth and what I consider to be an ignorant attitude. This time however he went even further than his usual behaviour. Thibert claimed that there are many jobs in Fort Erie and that the reason there are so many unemployed here is because Fort

Erieans are illiterate, uneducated and lazy.

What a slap in the face to the many hard working residents here who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own! Is he saying that those people are too stupid and lazy to keep their jobs?

Mr. Thibert also blames Fort Erie economic woes on the fact that some of our vacant land has been designated as Provincially Significant and cannot be built on. How ridiculous! There is a lot of vacant land ready to go. Why is he not filling these areas?

The taxpayers of Fort

Erie have spent over 5 million dollars in the last decade to fund Thibert and the EDTC. What do we have to show for our money?

I can't think of any new beneficial businesses that Thibert has brought to Fort Erie. But when I think of all the things we have lost over the past 10 years, the list goes on and on.

Some praise Thibert's style and feel that it is not the right time to get rid of him. I think it is exactly the right time to demand his resignation. In fact it is long overdue. Fort Erie

desperately needs someone now who can bring some positive economic benefits to the area. We can't afford to wait any longer for help. We all know Thibert can be loud. But we need someone who will actually do his job and give us some positive results.

Brigitte Bonner
Ridgeway

Bickering and jabbing doesn't help

From Page 6

It's a small group in this incredibly divided town who will look for any opportunity they can to criticize someone who isn't on their "side."

This has become so exhausting, especially how this mindset has trickled onto our local council.

Fort Erie is one community and everyone needs to start acting like they are aware of this.

At Monday's budget meeting, our member of provincial parliament Kim Craitor, spoke to council and in a polite way, told them to get their act

together and to put personal differences aside.

Anyone who knows Kim, is aware that although he is a politician, he is one of the nicest guys you could meet.

And for him to go out of his way to petition council to start acting like a team, probably even just to let us know that there is one team that is looking down on the way Fort Erie conducts its business and shakes their head.

Our local council is not to blame for economic struggles we have in Fort Erie, but all this bickering and personal jabbing probably doesn't help.

krist.dube@sunmedia.ca

COPE to continue successful penny drive

Melissa Mangelsen
Fort Erie Times

Many of us take for granted the fact that we can reach in our cupboards and grab staple foods.

The Community Outreach Program Erie (COPE), wants to remind people that not everyone has that luxury.

With the loss of jobs and industry in Fort Erie, local food banks have been feeling the increased strain of people needing their services.

Last month, the people who received assistance through COPE had risen five per cent, and so far January has continued the same trend. In 2012, 7,505 people came to COPE for food.

Barb Volzke, manager, said they are currently looking for items that any of us would want to have in our

homes. This includes, peanut butter, tuna, macaroni and cheese, canned pastas, items for kids lunches or cereals.

COPE began their penny drive in July and are excited that it has been going so well. To date they have raised \$6,193 in pennies.

"We're going to keep it going since it's going so well. We've always had a coin jar in the office but it didn't really amount to anything. Since we've been pushing the penny drive people have been stopping by and dropping their pennies off," said Volzke.

People are encouraged to stop by COPE and donate their pennies.

COPE is a much-needed organization in the community, and even more so now.

"We know we're needed in the community. It's not

just for people who are unemployed, sometimes people who have jobs face hardship too," said Volzke.

It was a chilly Monday morning for COPE workers when their furnace broke down on recently. Because of the age and condition of the furnace it couldn't be fixed. Just three days later they received a call from the Trillium Fund with the funding needed to purchase a new furnace and air conditioning unit.

"The timing couldn't have been better. If we wouldn't have gotten the funding from them I don't know what we would have done," she said.

COPE will be holding a pasta fundraiser at the Italian Hall, which is scheduled for April 18.

COPE is located at 32 Dufferin Street and can be reached at 905-871-2526.



MELISSA MANGELSEN Fort Erie Times

Due to the success of the penny drive, Barb Volzke, manager of COPE, said it's something they have to continue doing. COPE is currently short of food donations, and is asking the public to help.

MPP Craitor to discuss future of Fort Erie with Wynne

Melissa Mangelsen
Fort Erie Times

Niagara Falls MPP Kim Craitor had an opportunity

to attend a caucus meeting on Tuesday, to meet with Canada's 25th premier Kathleen Wynne.

Craitor, who says he always puts his riding first,

had a few moments to individually address Wynne, but said that she does want to speak with all MPPs individually in the near future.

"As you can imagine,

there's a lot on her agenda right now, but she has indicated that she does want to sit down and discuss each MPPs riding," he said.

While at the caucus meeting Craitor talked about the importance of the Fort Erie Racetrack and working together.

"I talked to her about the uniqueness of the Fort Erie Racetrack and the hope of moving this forward," he said.

He also addressed the issues regarding wetlands, and about how the bureaucracy of how it was set up.

For Craitor those are his two main issues in regards to Fort Erie.

When asked what his thoughts were on the new leader, Craitor said he's never been the type of person to just say what he's supposed to say.

"I say what I believe, and with a new leader we need to be united and move forward. I have to wait and see if she will have more communication with the MPP and see if there are actually changes. Only after that will

be able to develop thoughts on Wynne," said Craitor.

He said one of the problems with party politics is that more members need to remember who they were elected by and that's who should come first.

"Former Prime Minister Turner, said we need to have a transition and put people in the riding first," he said.

"The voice from our members is what should drive the government. We should be letting the riding decide for us what the important issues are."

Wynne became Ontario's first female premier last week when she was voted to replace outgoing Premier Dalton McGuinty, whose legacy she vowed to build on.

Craitor said the Grits need to reinvigorate themselves, hoping Wynne would head the call for renewal McGuinty issued when he told MPPs he was stepping down.

"Renewal means it's a renewal. That's what I heard," he said. "You don't just change the leader, you



MPP Kim Craitor

change the party. It's time," said Craitor.

Craitor backed third-place contender Gerard Kennedy, but is eager to hear Wynne's thoughts and where she stands on the critical issues in his riding.

Craitor is also going to urge Wynne to commit to not building a casino in Toronto stands come down in favour of a new south Niagara hospital.

"I will speak what I believe and do everything to get Fort Erie the things it deserves," said Craitor.

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Author to bring stories of slavery, Underground Railroad to Fort Erie

Melissa Mangelsen
Fort Erie Times

February marks Black History Month.

The Fort Erie Public Library will be welcoming Bryan Prince, author, historian, lecturer, farmer, and his wife to speak, Feb. 6 at 1 p.m.

Because of Fort Erie's location, throughout the mid-19th century, the town served as a major entry point into Canada along the Underground Railroad. The town was often the first view of Canada seen by thousands of freedom-seekers entering the country.

Prince is a descendent of slaves who came to Canada prior to the American Civil War, and has always had a strong interest in history, mainly ancient history.

"When I started to dig into my past and my history I learned a lot about where I came from," he said.

Through that, he developed a passion for the history and stories of the Underground Railroad.

"Because Fort Erie was

one of the final stops of the Underground Railroad I'm going to be sharing stories there of slavery and the great-escape of some slaves," he said.

In total he will be attending 21 engagements across the U.S. and Canada in February.

"I've learned a lot through traveling, I've heard incredible stories and met a lot of interesting people," he said.

His travels have taken him to the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., where he did a lecture as well as various university campuses.

Prince hopes that through his lectures he will be able to spark interest in others to learn about the Underground Railroad.

"Everyone's history is important. I focus on the stories of the people who made their way to Canada. There are a lot of stories out there and a lot of forgotten people," he said.

He travels with his wife Shannon, who is curator of the Buxton Museum. They are among the organizers of an annual Canadian/U.S.

Black History and Genealogy Conference that brings together distinguished scholars from across the continent.

Prince has written numerous books, which include *I Came As A Stranger*, *A Shadow On The Household* and *One More River To Cross*. He has also worked with television documentaries, including *Underground Railroad: The William Still Story*, where he was hired as the historical consultant. Still was an African-American abolitionist, conductor on the Underground Railroad, writer, historian and civil rights activists.

In September, Prince and Shannon were presented with the Diamond Jubilee Medal for their tireless work in telling the history of the Underground Railroad and stories of those who were enslaved and escaped to freedom in Canada.

Fort Erie is a significant stop for the two, as Fort Erie was also the place where many refugee slaves found paying jobs for the first time, working in the lumber,



Shannon and Bryan Prince will be in Fort Erie, Feb. 6, to speak at the Fort Erie Public Library for Black History Month. Fort Erie has a deep history involving the Underground Railroad.

farming and shipping industries. Fort Erie symbolizes the beginning and the end of a journey that for most began in bondage.

The town was a gateway to freedom in Canada and the Underground Railroad's tracks ran right through it, stopping at the Mildred M.

Mahoney Dollhouse.

More information is available on his website, www.bryanprince.ca.

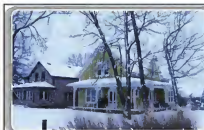
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KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times
Gordon Gunn, left, Theresa Gunn, Steven Baczynski, Bonnie Gagnon and Andrew Nugtaren rehearsing their roles for TASC Niagara's 'Time Warp' production on Feb. 22 and 23.

Let's do the Time Warp

Kris Dubé
Editor

Therapy and Alternatives for Special Children and Adults (TASC) is hoping the community will support its upcoming performance.

On Feb. 22 and 23 at the Crystal Ridge Community Centre, about 50 participants will hit the stage and work behind the scenes for a production called 'The Time Warp,' that will feature music and television performances spanning from the 1940s until the present.

TASC has been providing social interaction programs for disabled individuals since 1998, a non-profit organization started by parents and volunteers with financial support from com-

munity events and sponsors.

"We believe that everyone regardless of their abilities, should be involved in all aspects of our community," said Nancy Kacur, TASC Niagara president.

The performance also includes a full-course meal and tickets can be ordered in advance by calling Kacur at (905) 894-1768 or emailing info@tasctniagara.com.

Prize donations and table sponsors are also being welcomed.

Tickets can also be purchased at Boggio and Edwards Ridgeway IDA on Ridge Road.

TASC is a registered charitable organization run entirely by volunteers and parents.



Embracing Change Workshop

Join us at Revera – Garrison Place for our upcoming special event:

Friday, February 8th, 2 pm – 3 pm

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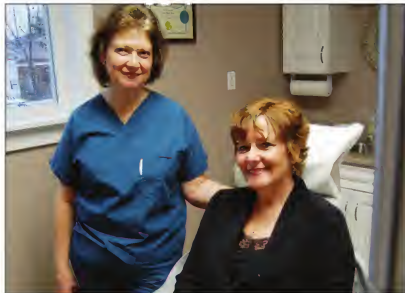
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Gift from the Heart



KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times

Nancy Pearce, from Choice Independent Dental Hygiene prepares her patient Janet Gigone, as she gets ready for the Gift from the Heart program on Feb. 9. From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., in partnership with Bridges Community Health Centre, Pearce will be offering free 45-minute cleanings to low-income individuals and families. Pearce is one of 70 hygienists across the province who will be participating. Choice Independent Hygiene is located at 355 Ridge Road at the Ridgeway Wellness Centre.

Fire department called to Walmart



KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times

On Tuesday, the Fort Erie Fire Department was called to Walmart and were on scene for about half an hour. The motor in an air handling unit seized and caused part of the store to fill with smoke. This caused the electrical breaker to trip and power was lost inside the building until it was restored shortly after. No damage was done and the store was closed until the problem was corrected, according to fire chief Larry Coplen.

check
this
out



Family Storytime

Bring the family and join us while we share great stories.

Thursdays in February, 4 p.m. Centennial. Free.

Tiny Tales

Tuesdays, Feb. 5, 12, 19, 10:15 am. Centennial. \$5 for 6 weeks.

Wednesdays, Feb. 6, 13, 20, 10:15 am. Crystal Ridge. \$5 for 6 weeks.

A tiny time especially for little ones ages 2 to 4 years that's full of early literacy fun. Pre-registration is required.

Bryan Prince

Bryan Prince, historian, author and descendant of slaves who came to Canada before the U.S. Civil War will speak at the Centennial Feb. 6, 1 p.m. The cost to attend is \$2. Along with his wife Shannon, the two will talk about Fort Erie's role in the Underground Railroad. Books will be available for signing.

Variety of drugs and weapons seized by police

In early January, the police conducted an investigation into the sale and distribution of illicit drugs from a residence in Fort Erie.

As a result of the investigation, four Fort Erie residents faced numerous charges relating to drugs and weapons.

Jan. 30, members of the Fort Erie Detective Office along with uniform patrol and K9 unit members executed a search warrant at the residence.

Darren Browne, 23-years-old was charged with possession of a controlled substance for the purpose of trafficking (marijuana), possession of a controlled substance (psilocybin), possession of a controlled substance (oxycotin), possession of a controlled substance (methylphenidate), position of a prohibited weapon (stun-gun), possession of a prohibited weapon (expandable baton) and possession of property obtained by crime (currency).

Daniel Stuffs-Aitken, 24-years-old, was charged with possession of a controlled substance (cocaine), possession of a controlled substance (morphine), possession of a controlled substance (heroin).

Brittany Lamb, 19-years-old, was charged with possession of cocaine, and morphine.

Randall Comerie, 19-years-old, was charged with possession of a controlled substance for the pur-

pose of trafficking (marijuana), possession of a controlled substance (oxycotin), possession of property obtained by crime (currency). Lamb and Comerie were released from custody by way of Officer-In-Charge Undertaking and promised to appear with a future court date.

Both Browne and Stuffs-Aitken were held in custody pending a bail hearing, Jan. 31.

Police seized a quantity of marijuana, heroin, morphine, prescription medi-

cation, magic mushrooms and cocaine along with a large sum of Canadian currency and two prohibited weapons.

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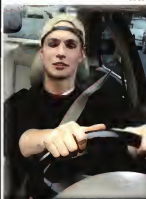
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Craitor stands up for Thibert

Kris Dubé
Editor

Kim Craitor says Jim Thibert is the man who can get the job done for Fort Erie.

At Monday's budget meeting, the Niagara Falls member of provincial parliament was added as a last minute delegation and provided his thoughts on two topics.

He began his presentation, speaking about Ontario getting a new premier.

He said he looks forward to working closely with Kathleen Wynne about local issues like the Fort Erie Racetrack and the hindrance that provincially significant wetlands has played in the town when it comes to new development.

"For Fort Erie, those are very important issues," said Craitor.

The second topic the MPP raised was the controversy

“

I didn't save the Fort Erie Racetrack. Jim Thibert led the charge on that.”

— Kim Craitor

surrounding some members of council's opinion of Fort Erie Economic Development and Tourism Corporation (EDTC) general manager, Jim Thibert.

Craitor admitted that Thibert may have a unique approach sometimes when going about his business, but when it comes down to the big picture, he is the man that can get things done.

He referred to the Fort Erie Racetrack and when

three years ago, the Fort Erie Live Racing Consortium was formed and put in place to operate the historic boarder oval.

It was Thibert who was the brains behind the plan, according to Craitor. "I didn't save the Fort Erie Racetrack, Jim Thibert led the charge on that," he said.

Craitor said over the last two years he has come to know each member of council rather well and that passion for the community they represent, is something they all share.

"You all care, I truly believe that," he said.

When in conversation with potential developers or investors who are interested in Fort Erie, Craitor says he focuses on all the amenities available in the small town and staying positive.

"My job is to be a positive spokesperson for our community,"



Fred Eaglesmith and his Travelling Steam Show will be at the Sanctuary tonight at 8 p.m.

Striking the right chord

John Law
OMI Agency Niagara

When times are good, Fred Eaglesmith feels like an outsider. These days? This most unlikely Canadian country rocker jokes that he's "hot."

He knows his songs strike a chord when people are in the dumps.

"I have a hard time when things get good," he says during a rare day at home in Port Dover. "People are willing to listen to new bands ... but when things get tough, people wanna hear me."

"Right now, there's not much competition. My career is going through the roof again right now ... people want to make sure their

\$25 is well spent. So going to see The Eagles for \$200 just doesn't appeal to them right now when they're struggling."

Eaglesmith's hot streaks come and go, but his music will never change. Jagged, often heartbreaking country songs about desolation, ruined relationships, addiction and broken dreams, delivered with plenty of jokes and side stories. Eaglesmith built his cult by speaking to fans on their own terms, in their own towns. He will probably play your living room if you ask nice.

Lots of singers talk about life on the road. Few of them mean it like Eaglesmith, who roams the country with his

six-piece band (including drummer Kurt Heppner of Niagara Falls) 300 days a year in a converted school bus that runs on vegetable oil. On Saturday, he takes his "Travelling Steam Show" to The Sanctuary - Centre for the Arts.

"I make my living on the road," he says. "I'm not a huge, rich rock star. I mean, I'm okay. But it's like a plumber - he has to go to the houses. He can't say, 'Well, you've got to bring the toilet to me.'"

"I've built a career playing little towns in North America and the world, really. If I go rent Massey Hall, I'm not going to fill it. But I'll play all around Toronto and draw way more people than I would if I played Massey Hall once."

His songs have been snatched up by the likes of Miranda Lambert, Todd Snider, Cowboy Junkies, Alan Jackson and Toby Keith. Three years ago he made it to The Late Show with David Letterman. But that's as close to "the biz" as Eaglesmith wants to get. Instead of outdoor festivals and big buses ("porn buses," he calls them), he'll gladly play a hole-in-the-wall bar with 100 people. That's where Eaglesmith classics like Alcohol & Pills and White Rose belong.

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Canucks visiting Meteors tonight at Leisureplex

Jr. B squad has 16 wins on the season to date

The Fort Erie Meteors have won two of their last six games and currently sit with a 16-25-1 record.

The Meteors beat up on their cross-border rivals, the Buffalo Blades, on Jan. 8 with a 5-0 shutout victory and on Jan. 12 earned a 5-3 win against the Thorold

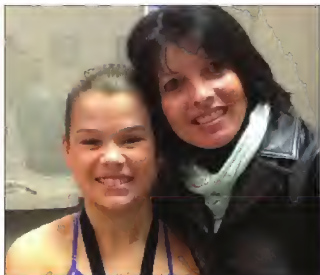
Blackhawks.

Last Saturday, the Meteors were downed 4-3 in overtime against the Stoney Creek Warriors and on Friday faced off against the Port Colborne Pirates.

The Meteors are in seventh place with 33 points, one point behind Stoney Creek.

Tonight, the Meteors will welcome the Niagara Falls Canucks for a 7:15 p.m. start at the Leisureplex.

Skating to Silver



Ashley Backshall, of the Crystal Ridge Skating Club, with her coach Cheryl Hebbourn, at the Charles Dover Invitational skating competition in Grimsby earlier this month, where she won a silver medal for her freeskate program, in the WO Pre-Preliminary category. Ashley was the only skater to represent her club at this competition.

Music bigger than business

From Page 12

"I'm not interested in the music 'business,'" he says. "Rock and roll took off in the early '60s, and it was the musicians' music. They got circumvented right away and the business guys came in. Now, it's like school teachers run festivals."

"They're not the musicians. I'm the musician, so when I come to your little hall in Ridgeway, it's my show. The people can tell, and they like the show better."

When the business implodes - which Eaglesmith is convinced will be soon - his template will suddenly look brilliant. He's even pondering a "Highway 3" tour, playing every town along the way from Fort Erie to Windsor.

"People are going to get really tired of going to stadiums where they can't see the entertainer," he says. "It's not music, I don't know what it is, that thing. As I drive the road I see more (signs that say) 'Band. Tonight. Music Tonight.' Man, I haven't seen that in 15 years."

"People are happy to go down to the bar and watch a show again."

THE TOWN OF FORT ERIE

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PUBLIC NOTICES

OVERNIGHT WINTER PARKING ON STREETS

ATTENTION ALL MOTORISTS: In an effort to keep the streets free of vehicles during the winter months for snowplowing and sanding operations, residents are reminded that no overnight parking is permitted.

Traffic By-law No. 2000-89, Section 205 provides that "No person shall park a vehicle or permit a vehicle to remain parked" on any street in Town "between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. between November 1, 2012 and March 31, 2013."

The Town's By-law Enforcement Officers will be exercising vigilant enforcement of By-law No. 2000-89. **Your vehicle will be issued a parking ticket and could be towed, at your expense, if found in violation of the by-law.**

Enquiries may be directed to the Town's By-law Enforcement Officers by calling (905) 871-1600, Extension 2216 (Geoff Stephenson) or Extension 2215 (Matt Richardson).

HEY STUDENTS! LOOKING FOR SUMMER WORK?

The Corporation is now accepting applications for **summer student employment opportunities** in parks/cemeteries; facilities; roads; horticulture; museums and engineering. Work schedules may include weekends and holidays. Some positions require a valid, Class G drivers' license. Further details are available at www.town.forterie.ca. Go to "Town Hall", scroll down and click on "Employment Opportunities".

Returning students **MUST** apply. Application forms are available on-line and at Town Hall. The deadline for receiving applications is **5:00 p.m. FRIDAY MARCH 22, 2013**. The Town of Fort Erie is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodation is available to candidates upon request.

BY-LAW TO ADOPT 2013 GENERAL LEVY OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET

TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to Section 291 of the Municipal Act, 2001 the Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie intends to consider a by-law at its meeting of Monday, February 25, 2013 to adopt the 2013 General Levy Operating and Capital Budget.

For more information please go to the Town's website at www.forterie.on.ca under the 2013 Budget banner. Further inquiries should be directed to Mrs. Helen Chamberlain, Director of Financial Services at ext. 2300 (hchamberlain@forterie.on.ca).

Any person interested in appearing before Council as a delegate at the aforesaid Council Meeting to address the proposed by-law must register with the Clerk's office by **3:00 p.m. Thursday, February 21, 2013** (905-871-1600 ext. 2236/2212). Written comments will also be received by the undersigned up to **3:00 p.m. Thursday, February 21, 2013** either by mail, email or hand delivery.

Carolyn J. Kett, Town Clerk
Email: ckett@forterie.on.ca

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Tuesday, February 5th - 1:00 p.m.

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Port Colborne High School
Room 321, 211 Elgin Street

FORT ERIE

Fort Erie Secondary School
Room 159, 7 Tait Avenue

WELLAND

Centennial Secondary School
Room 226, 240 Thorold Road W.

NIAGARA FALLS

Westlake Secondary School
Room 135, 5960 Piton Road

GRIMSBY

Grimsbey Secondary School
Room 422, 5 Boulton Avenue

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS
AND OTHERS
IN THE ESTATE OF
MARGARET JUNE DAVIES

All persons having claims against the Estate of MARGARET JUNE DAVIES, late of the Town of Fort Erie, in the Regional Municipality of Niagara, who died on the 29th day of December, 2011 are notified to send particulars to the undersigned on or before the 25th day of February, 2013, after which date the estate will be distributed with regard only to claims of which the undersigned shall then have notice, and the undersigned will not be liable to any person of whose claim the undersigned shall not then have notice.

Dated this 14th day of January, 2013.

Ronald Gordon Davies, Son Alexander Davies,
Bernice Brown Davies and Nancy Jean Bransden,
Estate Trustees, by their solicitors
Jenni, Iannone & Rockley
381 Ridge Road,
Ridgeway, Ontario
L2B 3K2
Telephone 905-494-0230
Fax 905-494-0300

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS

IN THE ESTATE OF DEANNA DORIS SCHWEITZER
All claims against the estate of DEANNA DORIS SCHWEITZER, late of the Town of Fort Erie, in the Regional Municipality of Niagara, who died on the 3rd day of December 2012, must be filed with the undersigned Estate Trustee on or before the 31st day of March 2013, after which date the undersigned will distribute the assets of the Estate having regard only to the claims then filed, and the undersigned will not be liable to any person of whose claim the undersigned shall not then have notice.

Dated this 14th day of January 2013

Larry Lee Wade
Estate Trustee
By his Solicitor, Peter R. BonEmfant
P.O. Box 239, 24-1 Bridge Road
Ridgeway, Ontario L0S 1N0

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Vous pouvez également obtenir des renseignements au sujet de
cette cause auprès de Lisa Turcotte at 82 Hannover Drive, P.O.
Box 24048, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada L2R 7P7,
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Sunday February 3rd Annual Big Game Party Pitches of Beer & 1 lb Wings for \$16.00 Trivia & Prizes "Award Winning Call" at 8:00 time	Friday February 8th 7:00 to 11:00 pm Open Jam Sessions in our downstairs hall featuring our own Rick Maclean with 2nd Idle Essence	Saturday February 9th Comedy Improv Night Featuring our own members Trent Matthews & Doug Kidd Proceeds to support the Pappy Fund and Fort Erie Chamber of Commerce Bursary Fund
Tuesday Feb 12th Annual Pancake & Sausage for only \$7.00 pp	Saturday February 16th Public Speaking	Saturday February 16th Great talent show "A Little bit Country, A little bit Rock n' Roll" featuring the Hironos Family with many special guests Show starts at 7 pm in the upstairs hall

Every one welcome including nonmembers to all events

Friday Feb 22nd 7:00 to 11:00 pm Open Jam Sessions in our downstairs hall featuring our own Rick Maclean with 2nd Idle Essence	Saturday February 23rd Monthly Euchre Tourney \$5 to play and all monies paid out in prizes starts at 7 pm
---	---

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Obituaries In Memoriam Thanks Births Celebrations More

Obituaries Obituaries

DEKAN, William (Deek) - Passed peacefully at his home on January 29th 2013 in his 71st year. "Deek" is survived by sister Helen Deek, 2 nieces and 4 nephews. Predeceased by parents Hedvig Novakavicz and Anthony Dekan, and sister Clare Holowack. "Deek" was born in Ridgeway on March 9, 1942 and worked for many years at Sherrin Williams in Fort Erie, Ontario. He will be sadly missed by many friends, extended family and acquaintances for his gentleness and funny one liners. "Keep one eye open, and mouth shut" Cremation has taken place. In lieu of flowers, donations to a charity of your choice would be appreciated. Please collect pictures and memories for a summer wake at home. Arrangements entrusted to **NIAGARA FUNERAL ALTERNATIVES**, 905-694-0120.



Coming Events Coming Events

ALZHEIMER Society Niagara Region Support Groups for Caregivers meets first Wed of each month (except July & Aug) 1:30-3pm Residence on Garrison 373 Garrison Rd. Fort Erie. 905-687-3914

FORT ERIE OPTIMIST CLUB VALENTINE'S PARTY
Feb. 9th, 7:30
at the Optimist Hall, Gilmore Rd.
Dancing with "A Better Best"
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In Memoriam In Memoriam

Margaret Dafeo
In loving memory of a dear Mother & Grandmother, who passed away February 8th, 2003. Treasured still with love sincere
The memory of one we love so dear:
Love, Lynn, Michael, Kathy, Rick, Bill, and Families.

In loving memory of
George Donald White
who passed away February 3, 2010

God saw you getting tired
And a cure was not to be.
So he put his arms around you
And whispered, "Come with me."
With tearful eyes we watched
You slowly fade away.
Although we loved you dearly
We would not make you stay.
A golden heart stopped beating
Hard working hands at rest,
God broke our hearts to prove to us
He only takes the best.
Catherine and Family.



PASS TIME IN LINE. READ THE NEWSPAPER.



HALVORSON, William - At the Douglas Memorial Hospital on Tuesday, January 29, 2013 at the age of 76. William Halvorson, beloved husband of the late Alice (Thompson) 2003. Cherished father of Jeffrey, Peter and Cathy (Weis). Much loved brother of Ron (Margaret) Halvorson and dear friend of Margaret Weaver. Friends and relatives called at **THE WILLIAMS FUNERAL HOME**, 722 Ridge Road North, Ridgeway on Friday, February 1st from 2-4 p.m. Cremation with private family services at a later date. Memorial donations would be appreciated to the Heart and Stroke Foundation or a Local Food Bank of your choice. On-line guest register at www.williamsfuneralhome.ca.

Death Notices Death Notices

DELL-PHYLLIS, (Wagner) passed away in Calgary Alberta Monday, January 7th, 2013 in her 91st year. Phyllis was born and raised in Carstairs, Alberta, before coming to Crystal Beach to work at Fleet Aircraft Fort Erie, during WWII. Phyllis was predeceased by her husband Joseph W. Dell 1966 and her daughter Karen Dell, 2003. of Ridgeway. A memorial service and interment were held in Carstairs Alberta.



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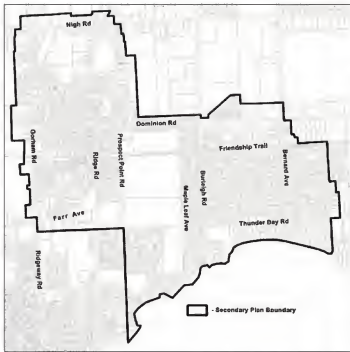
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PUBLIC NOTICE RIDGEWAY / THUNDER BAY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN / SECONDARY PLAN INFORMATION OPEN HOUSE NO.2

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2013

Material & Display Preview 6:30 PM - Presentation and Q&A 7:00 to 8:00 PM
ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, 245 PROSPECT POINT RD. N., RIDGEWAY



Residents, property owners, business owners and all interested citizens are invited to attend this 2nd Open House for the Ridgeway/Thunder Bay Neighbourhood. The Town is undertaking the process of formalizing the Neighbourhood Plan by way of Official Plan Amendment, commonly referred to as a Secondary Plan. The Plan will require adoption by Fort Erie Council and is subject to Regional approval. Once a Secondary Plan has been approved, it will serve as the guiding land use and policy document for the lands identified above. This is the second meeting in a series of public opportunities and forums that provides attendees with the ability to:

- Comment on the draft Secondary Plan
- Comment on key issues important to existing residents and stakeholders
- Make additional suggestions for consideration by staff during preparation of the final draft.

A copy of the Draft Secondary Plan will be available no later than February 8th, 2013 on the Town's Website under the "Amendments" section

Come out and help us shape the future of the Ridgeway/Thunder Bay Neighbourhood for Council's future consideration. Council has not made any decisions concerning approval of this Plan

For further information please contact:

Chris Millar, CPT, MCIP, RPP, Neighbourhood Planner
Community and Development Services Department
1 Municipal Centre Drive
Fort Erie, Ontario L2A 2S6
(905) 871-1600 ext. 2503
cmillar@town.forterie.on.ca

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST STRATEGIC LAND USE PLANNING VOLUNTARY FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPATION RESIDENTS/BUSINESS OWNERS/PRIVATE SECTOR STAKEHOLDERS IN

STEVENSVILLE & DOUGLASTOWN (BLACK CREEK)

The Town of Fort Erie is initiating a Secondary Plan process for the Stevensville & Black Creek communities as part of our Neighbourhood Planning Program. The Town's Official Plan directs that Secondary Plans be developed for the various neighbourhoods in Fort Erie to provide a more detailed view on how our neighbourhoods should grow. Secondary Plans show things like:

- where single detached houses, townhomes or apartment buildings should go;
- where parks are and where new parks should be located;
- where our shopping districts and employment areas belong;
- it reinforces our protected environmental areas and identifies what types of things can be located beside or near them.

• how all these things should fit together with roads, sidewalks and trails.

To help us start gathering early background information, the Town wishes to engage people who call Stevensville and Black Creek their home. We would also like input from local business owners and local groups who have a strong sense of their community's activities and identity. As the Secondary Plan is developed, it will go through a very open public planning process and the general public will be invited to comment at various points along the way. However, for now, we are looking for members of the community to offer us guidance on issues that are important to them and their neighbours.

At this time, the Town is inviting interested persons who wish to participate as a voluntary member of a Community Focus Group to submit an Expression of Interest. The Town wishes to assemble a representative cross-section of persons from within the Stevensville & Black Creek communities including:

- long time residents
- new residents
- business owners
- association representatives
- landowner/developers

Interested persons are requested to submit their name, address, contact information and identify in which capacity they see themselves as representing (from the five categories listed above).

Interested persons are advised their participation should be open-minded, focusing on their communities at large. All aspects of the community will be discussed as participants are taken through a SWOC Analysis Exercise (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Challenges) that will enable participants to generate a Community Vision Statement and set Goals for the Town to work towards. The exercise will also see the participants identify Community Priorities. This ground work will assist Town staff and serve as a reference point during the preparation of a Secondary Plan for Stevensville & Black Creek.

The Focus Group will participate in a four hour strategic exercise and will be conducted on several occasions during the Secondary Plan's development for additional input. Details on meeting dates have yet to be determined. At this time, the Town is seeking to establish the Focus Group, which is expected to be between 15-20 persons maximum. Town staff, in consultation with the Ward Councillor, will provide a recommended list of names to Council for their consideration and endorsement.

If you are interested in contributing your thoughts and opinion by articulating a long term vision for your community and wish to be considered for participation, kindly submit a letter or an e-mail no later than Tuesday February 19, 2013 with the information requested above to the attention of:

Chris Millar, CPT, MCIP, RPP, Neighbourhood Planner

Community and Development Services Department
1 Municipal Centre Drive • Fort Erie, Ontario L2A 2S6 • (905) 871-1600 ext. 2503
cmillar@town.forterie.on.ca

Persons submitting their expression of interest and those selected to participate are advised their names will become part of public record and may be published in relation to this planning exercise.

Accessibility Accommodation

If you require any accommodations for a disability in order to participate or attend meetings, kindly advise in your response so we can make appropriate arrangements.

Note Regarding Open Public Participation

There will be additional Public Information Meetings, open to general public at various points throughout the Secondary Planning Process, inviting comments on Plan development. These Public Information Meetings will be advertised in the Fort Erie Times, on the Town's website and announced at Council Meetings.

